



41st Annual
STELLAR AWARDS
CATEGORY ADDENDUM



PLEASE REVIEW ALL RULES AND GUIDELINES LISTED BELOW BEFORE ENTERING.

www.stellarawards.com

☐ New Category Announcement – HBCU CHOIR OF THE YEAR

- The HBCU Choir of the Year category recognizes outstanding artistic excellence, leadership, and impact in gospel music by choirs/ensembles that represent accredited Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States.
- The award honors the ensemble that, within the eligibility period, demonstrates exemplary vocal artistry, musicianship, technique, ensemble cohesion, direction, and presentation in a publicly available performance.

☐ Eligibility Period: March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026

- The ensemble must be an active gospel music choir during the eligibility period
- The choir must have performed and uploaded that performance to a publicly accessible website, YouTube, or social media platform during the eligibility period.
- The performance link must remain active and unchanged through the conclusion of judging and voting.

☐ Number of Entries

- Each eligible choir may submit one (1) performance link.

☐ Submission Period: March 2, 2026 – March 13, 2026

- All entries must be received via the online entry form at www.stellarawards.com by 11:59 p.m. on March 13, 2026
- Each music director must be a current SAGMA member (in good standing). You may join SAGMA at the time of submission by completing the online SAGMA form at www.stellarawards.com and electronically submitting a non-refundable fee of \$125 for membership.

☐ Required Materials

- Official online entry form completed in full and public performance link (URL) to the eligible performance.
- Confirmation that the entrant possesses all necessary rights and permissions for the performance, likenesses, arrangements, and recordings submitted.

☐ Technical Recommendations

- Video resolution of 720p or higher with clear, intelligible audio.
- The performance duration should be between 3 and 12 minutes.

☐ Selection and Voting

- Eligible entries will be evaluated by a professional, independent committee drawn from the creative community, inclusive of gospel artists, music educators, producers, and industry professionals.
- Based on committee scoring and deliberation, qualified entrants will be advanced as entries to the official Stellar Awards Second Ballot for SAGMA member voting.
- The nominees and winner of HBCU Choir of the Year will be determined by the results of the Second Ballot.
- The HBCU Choir of the Year award will be presented to the choir's Music Director, who accepts on behalf of the ensemble and the HBCU.